THE RISING SON.

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LEWIS WOODS, Business Manager. Published Every Week

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OLDEST NEGRO JOURNAL . . . IN KANSAS CITY,

TWICE ALL THE REST.



The paid circulation of THE RISING SON is more than double the combined circulation of all the other weekly newspapers.

In South Carolina there are 155,000 colored adults, and 130,000 white adults. In the legislature, composed of 165 members and unanimously Democratic, there is not one colored man in either house. This has not been the fact before since Negro enfran-

Well, this is simply in keping weith inevitable conditions, the more the Negro gives up and unresistingly retires, the more he will be compelled to give up. Retreating has never won a battic, climbed a mountain nor overcome an obstacle. St. Luke Herald,

The Rising Son is devoted to the best interests of our rase, a fearless advocate of right and fair play. There are those in high places who read and receive this paper and its benefits who think that printers' ink and labor are produced by wind and talk. Now, to all such we ask you again to pay us what you owe. Some of you have gained your notoriety through this paper. Come and see us with the

The man who has learned to do something better than any one else. who has learned to do a common thing in an uncommon manner, is the man who has a power and influence that no adverse surroundings can take fram him. It is better to show a man how City, Mo., that is entered at the post to make a place for himself than to office as second class mail, put him in one that some one else has made for him.

THIS TRUE AS GOSPEL.

We advise some of our white friends to be a Negro for an hour or two, and then honestly say what you would do. if you had to remain a Negro. Strange as it may seem, a Negro is a human being, made of flesh, blood and bone, and can feel pain, hate, contempt and outrage, just exactly like other people, This is really true!-St. Luke Herald. Of course, you would fight.

WARNING.

There are so many false leaders and hypocrites in our churches that it has become our duty to investigate and from now on the Rising Son shall expose a few of these impostors. To the good man you need not fear, do your duty; to the renegade and immoral one we ask you to move and get right. Look for the Son

"THE AFRICAN LEAGUE."

The monovia business men's edition came to our office this wek. It is a splendid paper, ably edited, with cuts of the leading men of the Liberian Republic and a host of business and professional advertisements. From the appearance of the paper it appears that Etheopia is about to stretch forth her hands. Success to the "African

THE SUFFRAGE CONVENTION.

A national convention of Negroes as advocated by the "Negro Advocate" of Virginia meets our approval. We are for a united effort on the part of Negroes for an even brake as positive American citizens. He who would be free should and must take action. Let us have the convention by all means, but how about Cleveland or Indianap-

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IF NOT, WHY NOT?

We have often been told that a Colored professional man could not succeed in Kansas City, Mo.

We have lived to see the contrary established to the full satisfaction of all who have held the contrary opinion Col. Geo. G. Wassom came to Kansas City in October, 1901, a stranger, but well indorsed by men of reputation, who stood at the head of the legal profession, where he had lived for years. For six months after he and family landed here-but little was known or seen of him, until he had gone before the examining board of the Jackson County Bar, where he was admitted to the practice of his profession. Since which time he has been employed in quite a number of leading cases and acquited himself with great credit-and is an honor to the bar of our cosmopolitan city. It is a fact that he to-day does more business than all the other Colored lawyers combined in our city-and does it in an honor-

able professional way, He is a moral man, with a refined and educated family; his wife is a graduate of Oberlin, O. His daughter is a graduate of the Austin High School, Shaw University, and Leonard Medical College; also of Bellview Hospital of New York City. The Colonel is a graduate of Maryville College, and bears a personal letter of indorsement from the old president, who has known him for nearly forty years. He is a member of our city board of associated charities; also a director of the Colored Children's Orphanage of this city. We need more men who have a fixed purpose in life, and is willing to ex-

tend a helping hand to a weak race. He is honorable, polite and the white members of the bar treat him with all respect that any good and respectable citizen could, or should demand. He is a good lawyer, a Republican in polities, a gentleman by nature and we Kansas City Golored wish him many years of usefulness among our people.

HE IS HOPEFUL.

Archbishop Ireland Writes Encouragingly to Prof. J. Silas Harris. St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 20, 1903.

Prof. J. Silas Harris, Kansas City, Mo.

My Dear Sir:

I thank you for your kind letter conveying to me your approval of the words spoken by me in Chicago. I am not discouraged over the prospects looming up before the Negro race.

There is an eddy in the current which seems at times to flow backwards, but this only to flow forward again with greater strength. Sincerely

JOHN IRELAND. It is reported that Prof. Harris has been offered the principalship of one of the St. Louis schools,

Kansas City, Mo., March 3, 1903, Office of the Postmaster, Publishers, Rising Son, Kansas City, Mo.

In response to your inquiry, I beg to say your publication is duly entered as second class matter at this office and regularly mailed.

Very respectfully,

J. H. HARRIS. Postmaster. The Rising Son is the only paper published by Colored people in Kansas

FOR THE OLD COLORED PEOPLE'S HOME.

Friends of the Old Colored People's home, an institution for the support of aged Negro men and women and for orphans, situated between Twentyfourth and Twenty-fifth streets on Michigan avenue, will give an entertainment for the benefit of the home Tuesday evening, February 24, at Turner hall. Vaudeville work will be put on by the Hailey children, stereopticon views will be shown by Mrs. M. Losee. It is said that the home is in especial need of funds just now and this entertainment s given with a view to relieving the situation as much as possi-

The Old People's Home is a worthy cause and should be patronized.

Mrs. Losee is one of the charitably inclined ladies of the city. She has given this entertainment before for charity. The effort should be appre-

ALL SORTS.

Lying may be wicked, but it is still fashionable. The faster a man is the slower he is about paying his debts.

Luck is a mighty uncertain thing to

sit around and wait for. Girls who would buy titled husbands must have legal-tender hearts.

A piece of a woman's mind is not good for her husband's peace of mind. Every cloud may have a silver lining, but only an optimist can believe

A man is not in a calm condition when he finds it impossible to raise the wind.

It is difficult for some men to keep their mouths shut when they have nothing to say.

There are more ways than one to skin a cat, also a Rube. Subscribe for your local paper and keep posted. Enough whisky is made in Kentucky every day to float a steamshipbut, of course, it never gets a chance

Other Way Round. People in New York have been arrested for smuggling cigars in hay. Some of the manufacturers should get their bumps for smuggling hay into cigars.

Ellillist die .

NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

A Letter from Hon. John S. Wise Replying to a Virginia Judge.

Indictment Against Virginia-Methods and Unlawful Acts.

New York, December 22, 1902.

My Dear Judge: Thank you once again for that swee kind letter so grateful at this particu lar time when so many folks are say ing mean things about me. They do not disturb me, because I know I am right and that they are wrong. When a man knows he is right he is serene and abuse does not ruffle him. The knowldege that they are violating plighted faith, and the doirg mean, disreputable and dishonest things, makes them irritable and abusive. In a sense their wrath amuses me. In another sense I am moved by pity for their narrow-mindedness and vindictiveness. They cannot turn back the hands of time or obliterate history. I agree most heartily with all you

say about the importance of denying suffrage to ignorance, and limiting it to intelligence. Any fair limitation of the right to those sufficiently educated to possess understanding as well as character must be approved by every right-thinking man; but when the limitations are not imposed in good faith; when they are applied with the confessed purpose of race discrimination; and when they are enacted by fraudulent abandonment of pledge and in defiance of all authority; the questions resulting are broader than any question of party or color and recur to the proposition whether, in defiance of law and precedent, a fractional oligarchy, in perpetuity, can establish itself, by ove-rthrowing all Democratic-Republican government in any state of the Union.

That is the question presented by the Virginia situation. We are just at the threshold of the inquiry. You are much mistaken if you consider my cause is lost. I went to the courts simply to have a judicial determination whether the courts have power to redress this character of wrong. If the Supreme Court sustains the views of the court below. Congress will confront this issue with no pretense for saying the sufferers have redress in the courts. It must meet the responsibility, and cannot shut its eyes to the fact that every promise of the nation to the Negro race stands broken, in defiance of the pledges which the states gave the nation thirty years ago; and that if they are to remain broken, the nation stands guilty of a wrong and a crime to these people.

No people can exist in a free community without the power of self-protection. The ideas of freedom and political serfdom are inconsistent. The men who freed the slaves saw this so clearly that they bestowed suffrage upon the Negroes, as a means of political self-protection, pre-maturely. NEGRO SUFFRAGE A CRIME.

Negro suffrage, as and when it was conferred, was both a crime and a blunder. It never ought to have been conferred at the time it was. It ought to have been made gradual. But it was conferred, wisely or unwisely. And the Southern States solemnly covenanted to accept it. At the present time it is nothing like as dangerous or as monstrous a proposition as it was then. There are thousands and hundreds of thousands of Negros fully qualified for the exercise of suffrage. The element of unlifted ignorance might easily be reached by equitable and the evil might thus be practically eliminated.

But a foul device, thinly disguised, but universally admitted, whereby it is sought to remit every Negro possible to political slavery, without touching the lowest or most ignorant white, is repugnant to every sense of manhood, of far-sightedness, or good faith.

The Negro is not what he was thirty years ago. We, as much as anybody else, have encouraged in him the aspiration for liberty and the sense of manhood. With those feelings stimulated and those rights acknowledged by us, we have seen him rear children, pay his taxes, accumulate property, vote, serve the state as her soldier and grow up not only with the pride of citizenship, but bearing its burdens along with his white fellow-citizens. Is it manly, is it just, is it honest, to seek now to filch him out of his rights, to trample out his ambitions, to remit him to a servile position?

Would any white race stand it? Can we expect him to remain with us, so degraded? Can we afford to lose him? With his place vacant where would we be? Do we not boast that he is the best of servants? Are we not spared the tyranny of more exciting laboring classes? Would not our condition be pitable if by a course of mean tyranny and the denial to him of rights which we are pledged by every consideration of honor and of interest to respect, if we drove him from our midst? No, sir, we could not afford it. There is not a pig-headed, bourbon, fool, Negro-hater living who, when pressed, will not admit these truths.

And if it be true that honor and selfinterest make it so that his lot is cast with us, in the name of reason and humanity, I ask, what have we to lose by being just and humane to him, or by according to him those political rights which white men deem esential to the protection and the preservation of their liberty?

God help the state that falls within the control of small souls who cannot see these great truths through the bloody mists of race prejudice. If Virginians are not large enough and broad enough to see them, then her old race of statesmen is extinct, and the pigmies and degenerates who guide her destines now will have to be curbed

controls the nation. Our people can-

not ignore the existence of the nation. By bitter and bloody experience we learned we could not dissolve the Union. Against our will and in spite of us, these black people were made reemen.

SOUTHERN PEOPLE NARROW.

And, once more, if the Southern people are so narrow and behind the advancement of the age, as to seek to violate their plighted faith, and to remand this race to slavery, they may bring down upon themselves the heavy hand which has never smitten them vithout carrying its point.

We hear a great deal of fine talk about the soverignty of these communto regulate their own social and poli- the list and answer me. tical problems. But Virginia's son, John Marshall warned them nearly a century ago, that the soverignty was tion upon your intelligence or upon subordinate to federal authority, in matters which federal laws reach, and the federal laws is supreme on questions of citizenship. They have paid bitterly in the past for ignoring these warnings.

We heard much also of the duty to maintain white supremacy. This talk springs from no honest fear that white supremacy is imperilled. It is intended to enlist race sympathy from hose who will not take the trouble to inform themselves upon the problem. But I say God help a white supremacy attained by breach of plighted faith to the nation; by cruel and unjust race discrimination against the blacks; by laws ordained without any legal sanction; lacking in any broad apprehension of the true relations between the races; dictated by vicious and half civilized race prejudice, and committed, for their administration, to willing tools, whose only idea of civic duty or loyalty is to work to perpetuate the rule of the faction which installed them.

Do not tell me that government under any such auspices will be better. No government so conceived or so executed, will be better than the bad men who sieze it, or the worst men who administer it. It is not democratic or republican government. It is the domination of a faction which neither respects the principles of government pretends to administer, the rights of the governmed, nor its own pledges Doing evil that good may come of it" has been the pretense of usurpers and tyrants from the time that government began, with the invariable result that the evil has been done and the promised god did not come of it.

feel a contempt for the expression so often heard that even if the method resorted to, to eliminate the Negro vote, was bad and vicious, the results will emancipate thought in Virginia and build up what the parties using this argument of con enience are pleased to predict, will be two respectable parties there. In a word, that with the Negro vote removed as a fusing influence upon the whites, the whites will divide upon public issues. as they have not done before.

Those who talk this way are of two classes—they are either Democrats. who do not believe what they say, and say it as a consoling balm to their own consciences, or in order to reconcile credulous opponents; or they are people who hope always for better things and do not know the men who devised and are executing the scheme, ferily, the man is gullible who with happiness. laws if they were fairly administered; knowledge of the career of the people, who have been piloting the politics of Virginia for the past thirty years, thinks that they have done anything or planned anything which will per mit the power which they have seized, and in which they have intrenched themselves with such care and cunning, and toil, to slip from their grasp now or hereafter.

Have not forty-seven of these men ordained a constitution which they were solemnly pledged to submit to the people for ratification or refec tion? Have they not, while refusing to take any oaths themselves, in direct defiance of the law under which they were assembled, exacted oaths of fealty to their work, from every officeholder, great and small, in the commonwealth, under threat of vacat ing his office unless he acknowledges their supremacy within thirty days from the time they asserted it?

Have they not deliberately, by ordi nance, provided for the amendment of all existing registration laws and the disfranchisement of at least two-fifths of the electorate which chose them, without consulting that electroate, as they promised to do?

Did they not so jealously regard this new enrollment of voters that they consulted their partisans in every part

and led away from political and eco- of the state and named personally nomic suicide by the stronger and every member of every registration broader and truer humanity which board in every magisterial district and in every ward of the state. Who ever play this game to a finish. It may end carry out the plans of these conspira-

LET VIRGINIANS ANSWER. fected by the work of these tools of large a game to be decided by one this conspiracy, answer this last query in the light of his knowledge of the character and attainments of the inthis deed of political murder.

And finally, has not every appointee beneficiary and recipient of preferment, since this alleged new constitution has been put into operation, been one of those who planned it, and for ities nowadays, and about their right whose benefit is was devised? Read

Do not tell me they intend to lose their grip. The statement is a reflecmine. I tell you they gained this power, corruptly, to enjoy it themselves; and will retain it as unscrupulously as they gained it.

Under the plea of fettering the Ne gro they have fettered all the whites also. There is no more hope of white the ex-slave-owner and the provincial men successfully overcoming their factional domination than there was that black men, or black and white men, the heartless, selfish trickery of small would do so. The poor deluded people politicians. of the state have, under the false fears excited by appeals to their race prej- the justice of which I felt more confiudices, allowed the coterie of Bourbon dence, or advocated a measure which politicians, typified by the leaders in I felt was more surely for the benefit this convention, to fix upon them a thraldom, the end of which no man feeling, I am unaffected by adverse living can foresee, unless it is broken by the power of the law; and judicially to go on with the good work. declared to be, as it is, an outrage upon the rights of the people. It is worse than any monarchy, for it has no single head to chop off. It is as specious in its pretences of benefits, and will be, if it is permitted to stand, as tyrannical and corrupt as the Veniian Seignory of Forty.

In spite of all these people say to the contrary, I love Old Virginia better than any spot on earth, and her old glory is as dear to me as to any of her sons. I am heartily ashamed of what has been done there. I will break it up root and branch if I can, as a duty which I owe, not only to my clients, but to my native state. If I cannot, that is all; but I am neither afraid nor ashamed to try, even if I that his children sayp. be the only white son of Virginia who feels as I do.

Is it or not natural that the Negroes, seek in every way in their power, to obtain redress?

Are they so beneath the notice of the law that they are not entitled to seek its protection?

Are their claims so preposterous and outrageous that a reputable lawyer cannot present and urge them without aspersion upon his character and abil-

These questions bring their own answers. A negative answer must come from every honest man, lawyer or layman, for it is the boast of our profession that no man is so humble, or even so base, that he is not entitled to have the best aspect of his case presented to a court for judgment; and that no human being is so low in the scale of human rights or political consideration, that the highest court in the land should turn a deaf ear to his prayer for life, liberty and the pursuit of

I took their case, knowing full well Denver. the unreasoning and brutal prejudice my actions would excite. How could I doubt this would be so, when I recalled that my father's life-long service to the state did not protect his gray hairs from villainous aspersions when he defended Calhoun in the may oralty contest in Virginia in the seventies.

WILL PLAY GAME TO FINISH. I have undertaken the task of bringing these galants to book, and we will saw such an act or ordinance as this in the courts, or it may end in conbefore? Were these men chosen to gress, or it may end in some other way, but if they think it is ended or tors, or for a fair and exalted purpose? that it is even fairly begun, they are reckoning without their host and woe-Let every citizen of Virginia, at. fully deluding themselves. It is too throw of loaded dice. They are playing for political power.

But my clients, a throng of 100,000 dividuals chosen at his home to do of God's creatures, who have been taught to think they are men and promised manhood by their state and nation, are not playing; they are praying and struggling and antagonizing in the inquiry whether they are freemen or sefrs and chattels.

At the end we shall know who is right and who is wrong; and, whatever that end may be, I know I am on the side of the weak against the strong; of humanity against bigotry and prejudice; of advancement and progress against obstruction and negation; of good faith against broken pledges of honor; of popular rights against unscrupulous usurpation; of experience and enlightened civilization against the besotted prejudices of jealousy of a lower type; upon the side of God aginst man's injustice and

In all my life I never had a cause in of all the people concerned. Thus criticism and more and more resolved

And the time will come when everybody-friend and opponent-will see, that I was right-right as God's precept-"Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you."

Let this be my answer to all that has been said. I trust to time for my vindication, and in the meantime am just as well, just as prosperous, and as happy as if the heathen did not rage furiously against me.

Yours truly, JOHN S. WISE.

No man is absolutely truthful when it comes to repeating the bright things

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